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trice is the loveliest creation of his mind ; it is the tender, thoughtful beauty of one that might well be man's guide to Paradise.

Allston's Landscapes are very peculiar. They are full of fine feeling, poetical imagination, and nice observation ; but whether they are not too much labored ; whether they have as much of the ease and careless gracefulness of nature, as they have of her brilliant lights, tender glooms, and beautiful forms, we do not feel quite assured. We cannot repress our regret, that the Desert, the best of his, indeed one of the best landscapes that was ever painted, has been suffered to leave the country. We fear, even he cannot repair the loss.

Harding has several fine portraits in the Exhibition. To make him a first rate artist, we think he wants only courage and a little more freedom of pencil.

Fisher, who has lately returned from Europe, has made wonderful advances by his voyage. His landscapes are very brilliant and beautiful. We should be better pleased, individually, if he would turn his attention entirely away from fat cattle and blood horses, which are, after all, but vulgar things for painting.

Doughty's Landscapes, especially those owned by Mr Dowse, which were painted for Mr H. Pickering, are very attractive and deserve great praise.

Sully's reputation is too well established to suffer by this Exhibition ; but there is nothing here to do him justice.

We should be glad to speak of several young artists, whose works give great promise of excellence ; but we have exceeded our limits.



- 7.—1. *Memoir of the Life, Character, and Writings of John Adams, read March 16th, 1827, in the Capitol in the City of Washington, at the request of the Columbian Institute, and published by their order, by WILLIAM CRANCH.*
2. *Memoir of the Life, Character, and Writings of Thomas Jefferson ; delivered in the Capitol, before the Columbian Institute, on the Sixth of January, 1827, and published at their request, by SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH.*
3. *Eulogium on Thomas Jefferson, delivered before the American Philosophical Society, on the 11th day of April, 1827, by NICHOLAS BIDDLE. Published at the request of the Society.*

THE three Memoirs, which we have now named, are severally too valuable to pass without a particular notice. They are of the

first class of the productions, which have commemorated the decease of Adams and Jefferson. We regret not to have it in our power, to add to them, as a subject of the present brief notice, a fourth Eulogium, delivered like the three mentioned, before a literary institute, and every way worthy of being placed, with them, on a level with the most successful obituary tributes to the memory of the deceased benefactors of the country. We allude to President Kirkland's Memoir on Adams and Jefferson, delivered on the anniversary of the birthday of the first, before the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; a learned and philosophical memoir, full of curious matters of fact, even on a theme already so amply treated, and enriched by profound remarks on the two great characters portrayed. We sincerely hope that it will not long be withheld from the press.

Of these Memoirs before us, each has its distinctive character. The first is exclusively appropriated to President Adams, the two last to President Jefferson. Judge Cranch prepares the way for his account of Adams, by a glance at the history of the country, from the time of its settlement, and a sketch of its condition at the time of his birth. Regarding the performance as a discourse delivered before a philosophical society, such an introduction is exceedingly appropriate. It is peculiarly so in the present case. The principles and fortunes of the Pilgrims lie at the basis of the national character of their descendents, the New Englanders; and it may perhaps also be correctly affirmed, that it is absolutely necessary to the highest order of individual character, that a man should have the love, the habits, and the feeling of his country born in him. For this reason, it is an all important fact, in the biography of John Adams, that he was descended from one,\* who, as early as 1630, emigrated to America with seven married children, thus embarking life and all its connexions and hopes, in the glorious cause of the Puritans. Born on the spot, where his fugitive ancestors found an asylum from civil and religious persecution, and which they had transmitted as a frugal and honorable competence through generations of the sterling yeomanry of New England, John Adams was, from his first entrance into life, a fair model of the pure New England character. In like manner Washington and Jefferson sprang from some of the earliest settlers in Virginia, and this circumstance undoubtedly, in their case as in that of Adams, accounts in part for the extraordinary ascendancy of all these men in the affections of their countrymen.

Judge Cranch relates with accuracy the incidents in Mr Adams's life; and several periods of his public career are treated

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\* Henry Adams.

with greater fullness, than in any other of the numerous biographies, which we have seen of him. This is particularly true, in respect to his negotiations in Holland; in which the fertility, perseverance, and independence of his mind were greatly illustrated. Familiarity with these great men, who achieved the American Revolution, destroys a little of the effect on us of the narrative of their lives. Hereafter our posterity will peruse with astonishment the history of that period; and dwell with admiration on the displays, not merely of native power, but of address, intellectual skill and aptitude, in the highest deliberative, diplomatic, and military functions, evinced by men, who rushed without training upon the great theatre of the Revolution; showed themselves expert without practice; and derived a power of execution from the same source, whence they drew the resolution to act,—the cause itself.

The limits of this notice do not admit an analysis of Judge Cranch's Memoir. But it may fairly be preserved as a performance of elevated character, the production of a pure and cultivated mind, employed on a grateful theme and doing ample justice to it. It is enriched with learned notes. Among them is the whole of the letter written from Worcester at the age of twenty; a perfect intellectual phenomenon.

Mr Smith's discourse upon Thomas Jefferson was, like the preceding Memoir of Judge Cranch, delivered at the request of the Columbian Institute, of which the two venerable men were honorary associates. Mr Smith was intimately acquainted with Mr Jefferson during the whole of his political career, in the various offices which he filled, under the Constitution of the United States. He has preserved some interesting anecdotes of his illustrious friend, not found in the other biographical notices, and has given a picture of his personal and private life, evidently dictated by unmingled affection toward his memory. In the latter connexion, we find the following incident, which, believing it to be precisely a specimen of the uniform character of the man, we quote with pleasure.

'The stature of Jefferson was lofty and erect; his motions flexible and easy; neither remarkable for, nor deficient in, grace; and such were his strength and agility, that he was accustomed in the society of children, of which he was fond, to practise feats which few could imitate. His countenance was open as day, and its general expression that of good will and kindness, which, as occasion offered, was lit up by a beaming enthusiasm. His benevolence and kindness had no limits. All that mortal could do to lessen the mass of human distress, he did. On one occasion,

when President, passing on horseback a stream in Virginia, he was accosted by a feeble beggar, who implored his aid to help him over it. Without hesitation, he carried him over behind him ; and, on the beggar telling him that he had neglected his wallet, he as good humoredly recrossed the stream, and brought it to him.' pp. 35, 36.

Mr Smith's Memoir is written in an animated and flowing style, and must by no means be omitted in the collection of the most valuable of the discourses delivered on the occasion of the decease of the Presidents.

Mr Biddle's is probably the last in the series of these productions. 'Be it our office,' he exclaims, in his introductory address to the Philosophical Society, 'as their more immediate associates in this society, to close this mournful procession ; to give the last look down that tomb, into which we shall all soon follow them, and then, pausing from the pursuits of the world, dedicate a few moments to the memory of Jefferson.'

Mr Biddle's discourse, in addition to the narrative of the events of the life of Jefferson, in which, as the successor of so many others in that field, no very copious gleanings of new facts was within his reach, presents a philosophical estimate of his works and character. The different writings of Mr Jefferson are estimated by the eulogist, with affectionate discrimination, which, justly assigning the highest merit to them all, gives each its proper character. Mr Jefferson was, upon the whole, the best writer of the revolutionary age ; we mean the man whose writing, upon the whole, was calculated to produce the greatest effect. He was certainly a less learned and emphatic writer than Adams ; less correct than Franklin in his diction, and less conspicuous than Franklin for a miraculous felicity, in giving point to important truisms and homely maxims of common life. He united, however, more than either, learning, point, and elegance. It may most justly be said of him, as in fact it might have been of either of his illustrious associates just named, that had he devoted himself exclusively to philosophy and letters, he would have stood on a level with the most renowned of their votaries. Some may exclaim of such a one,

'How sweet an Ovid was in Murray lost !'

A compliment brilliant enough when uttered, but which, even in reference to Lord Mansfield, became, before his glorious career was closed, little better than burlesque. Who would exchange the solid practical praise of one of Lord Mansfield's great decisions, in which the law ascertaining the rights, and protecting the interests of nations and unborn generations of men is defined.

and, as it were, promulgated out of the council chambers of a master mind, for all that Ovid ever wrote? Had Jefferson followed what, by a very natural and amiable self delusion, he thought the natural bent of his mind, and devoted himself exclusively to science and letters, even allowing that others would have been raised up to do for his country what he did, it is high praise to suppose, that he might have written as famous a history as Hume, or Gibbon, or Livy; and possibly have preceded Sir Humphrey Davy in ascertaining that potash and soda have a metallic base, or have forestalled Laplace in detecting an equation for eccentricity of eleven seconds per century. He did neither of these; but as a compensation, he is to go down to the latest generations of mankind, as the author of the Declaration of Independence.

Mr Biddle's discourse concludes with a parallel between Jefferson and Napoleon; a contrast, which, if not obvious, is well imagined, to illustrate the opposite qualities of a despotism won, preserved, and lost by violence; a military victory over mankind; and those of a spontaneous deference, gratefully yielded by admiring equals to one, who rises above his generation, by no other art or power than that of a more comprehensive identification of himself with them.

Mr Biddle's delineations of character and expressions of sentiment are occasionally shaded off into a hue of poetical melancholy; and his language is throughout eloquent and pathetic. His performance brings the long, heartfelt, varied strain of national eulogy to a rich and harmonious close.

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